

## Elac S10EQ

t seems that no matter how deeply I entrench myself in technology and no matter how up-to-date I try keep myself, there is always something new to proverbially "take me to school".

Gordon Moore, the co-founder of Intel, observed that the number of transistors in a dense integrated circuit doubled approximately every two years. This became known as 'Moore's Law' and,

if you know anything about graphs, you'll know that this means technology will continue to accelerate exponentially every 730 days or so.

Intimidated yet? You should be. It means that the machines are evolving much quicker than us as a species. Somebody better contact Sarah Connor and warn her!

I seem to have forgotten Moore's Law, or at least mentally shielded myself from the trauma of its logic, the day the Elac S10EQ arrived on my doorstep. A subwoofer with a control app? Why? What's next?

My T-shirts now come with control apps? Come on! But...it wasn't until I set the thing up and downloaded the control app that I realized how stupid and quick to judge I had been.

The relationship between the position of speakers and the listening position has always been a tricky one. If you get it right, you have a great experience -



but if you get it wrong, things just don't sound quite right.

The introduction of calibrated microphones helped the situation in no small part by defining the listening position and adjusting the speakers accordingly.

But now Elac has taken this concept to the next level by incorporating it into the company's control app, using your smartphone's microphone to calibrate the speaker via Bluetooth.

Now, no doubt there is someone out there reading this and thinking: "But a smartphone's microphone is not calibrated!" Don't worry. The good folks at Elac know this and have come up with an ingenious way of making it work.

The calibration set-up is a two-stage process. In the first step, you place your smartphone right next to the speaker in what we in the business call the "near-field listening position".

A series of test tones then analyse the sound without any disturbance from the room. Once this has been done, you move your smartphone into the true listening position and analyse the sound again.

Of course, this will be different from the original, given the distance you are from the speaker and the various elements in the room the sound might be affected by. The two results are then compared and the software does its best to adjust the sound to be as close as dammit to the near-field listening position. Voila!

The app allows for other aspects to be adjusted too. Phase, frequency, bandwidth and basic volume controls are all there, allowing for full customization of your sound. There are also some pre-set listening modes to choose from, including 'Normal', 'Music', 'Cinema' and 'Night'.

I put the S10EQ through its paces





with a mixed bag of films, series, documentaries and games. The sub's bottom-end punch is well controlled and does a fantastic job of handling movie explosions and contemporary kick drums. The rumble is also nice and warm and upfront, for a very engaging experience.

Bass tones are surprisingly deep and penetrative. Horror films reveal those sub-bass layers that are there to make the viewer uncomfortable without knowing why and, in general, it adds presence and fullness to both soundtracks and music.

The styling feels both classic and modern, leaving one with a sense of appreciation and respect for the overall aesthetic. It both draws the eye to it and, at the same time, generates respect for its uncomplicated stature.

So there you have it. The old and the new combine to create something smart and capable. You might be forgiven for sighing at the fact that you have to download yet another app to make some other thing in your home actually work.

But once you have... you'll be glad you did. And for this kind of money it represents a level of sophistication and performance that represents exceptional value, too.

Justin Beachcroft-Shaw

## (VITAL STATS)—

Type..... Active and passive radiator Amplifier type ......BASH tracking Power... 400 watts peak/200 watts RMS Frequency response .... 28 Hz - 150 Hz Crossover frequency ... 50 Hz − 150 Hz **Driver**...... 250 mm high-excursion doped paper cone

Dimensions (WxHxD)

...... 343 x 343 x 343 mm Weight ...... 15.3 kg

## Verdict

Tradition meets innovation in this surprising performer. Pricing represents excellent value for money, too.

Price ...... R9 990

Supplied by ...... 3D Sound Investment 012-665-2932

e-Mail edwin@3dsi.co.za

Website www.3dsi.co.za

